

Message Text

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10
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /095 W

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R 130727Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3837
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USUN NEW YORK 785

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5680

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MLAT PFOR UNGA TS
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: TUNIS CORE GROUP MEETING

REF: TUNIS 5384; STATE 198469

1. SUMMARY: TUNISIAN CORE GROUP RECEIVED REPORT FROM
CHAIRMAN ON HIS APPROACH TO ACTING FONMIN GHEZAL WHICH
INDICATED GOT HAD RETREATED ON ITS POSITION ON "FOREIGN
TROOPS" ISSUE AND THAT FONMIN CHATTY PLANNED TO SPEAK IN
FAVOR OF PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED KOREAN SOLUTION AT COLOMBO
NAC. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR REPORTED INFORMATION FROM TOKYO
THAT ALGIERS NACC DRAFT RESOLUTION HAD BEEN "SOFTENED."
END SUMMARY.

2. CORE GROUP MET AUGUST 11 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF BELGIAN
AMBASSADOR BAYOT WHO REPORTED ON HIS RECENT TALK ON KOREAN
ISSUE WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED GHEZAL (AFTER
DAYS OF EFFORTS TO M
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ET WITH FONMIN CHATTY BEFORE HIS

DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO CONFERENCE). BAYOT FOUND GHEZAL VERY WELL BRIEFED, HAVING READ SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH AND TEXT OF DPRK-USSR TREATY PROVIDED EARLIER BY THIS EMBASSY. GHEZAL WAS NOT PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO STATE THAT GOT POSITION HAD BEEN CHANGED BY SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS. HE REITERATED TUNISIAN POSITION THAT ROK MUST PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE OF KOREAN PENINSULA AND SAID CHATTY PLANNED IN SPEECH BEING PREPARED FOR USE AT COLOMBO TO BASE PLEA FOR RENEWED NORTH-SOUTH TALKS ON DECLARATION OF JULY 4, 1972. UNLIKE CHATTY, IN PREVIOUS MEETING WITH BOYOT, GHEZAL SAID SIGNIFICANTLY GOT'S POSITION ON PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IS THAT ANY COUNTRY WHICH FEELS THREATENED HAS RIGHT TO APPEAL FOR HELP IT NEEDS FROM ITS FRIENDS (A NEW DEPARTURE FOR GOT CLEARLY REFLECTING ITS SUCCESSFUL RECENT APPEAL FOR STEPPED-UP U.S., FRENCH, GREEK AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY PRESENCE HERE).

3. GHEZAL LEFT BOYOT WITH IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD NOT BE "REALISTIC" FOR GOT DELEGATION TO TAKE THE LEAD IN FAVOR OR ROK POSITION AT COLOMBO, SAYING NO RPT NOT ARAB STATE COULD DO THAT IN VIEW OF ROK'S ALLEGED UNSATISFACTORY STANCE IN ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, TUNISIANS WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE WHERE POSSIBLE AT COLOMBO IN FAVOR OF PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. GHEZAL WAS, HOWEVER, PESSIMISTIC OVER ULTIMATE OUTCOME AND BELIEVED NO RESOLUTION FAVORING DPRK WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE.

4. CANADIAN AND DUTCH AMBASSADORS FELT WE WOULD HAVE TIME TO STIFFEN GOT SPINE AFTER CHATTY RETURNS FROM COLOMBO AND BEFORE HE GOES TO UNGA, WHERE TUNISIA WILL HAVE MORE FRIENDS. THEY CONCLUDED OUR CORE GROUP HERE AND ACHIEVED AT LEAST (A) DISABUSING GOT OF BELIEF NO SECRET DEFENSE TIES EXIST BETWEEN DPRK AND USSR AND (B) ELICITING TUNISIAN RETREAT ON ISSUE OF "FOREIGN TROOPS."

5. KOREAN AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BOTH SEEN GHEZAL TO PRESENT THEIR CASES. THEY RECEIVED REACTION SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN BAYOT. JAPANESE THEN READ A TELEGRAM JUST RECEIVED FROM TOKYO CONTAINING INFORMATION THAT NACC DRAFT RESOLUTION ON KOREAN ISSUE HAD BEEN ALTERED, CONFIDENTIAL

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WATERED DOWN IN SOME ASPECTS AFTER REQUIRED CIRCULATION TO NAM MEMBERS. ACCORDING TOKYO, RESOLUTION NOW BEFORE NAC FAVORS CONFERENCE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED); OMITS BLANKET ENDORSEMENT OF DPRK POSITION AND DROPS TROOP WITHDRAWAL AS PRECONDITION TO NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WAS NEWS TO REST OF US, WHO FELT THAT, IF TRU, OUT FRIENDS HAVE BEEN MAKING SOME PROGRESS.

6. I REPORTED THAT I HAD SEEN CHATTY AUGUST 2 TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN PROMISED FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. I SUMMARIZED CONTENTS OF STATE 198469, JUST RECEIVED. MOST PRESENT FELT PRC REACTION TO SECRETARY'S JULY 22 PROPOSALS WOULD PROBABLY PROVE CRITICAL.

7. CHAIRMAN WILL RESUME EFFORTS TO MEET WITH CHATTY AS SOON AS HE RETURNS FROM COLOMBO ABOUT AUGUST 21/22. MULCAHY

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